

THE DE SOTO COUNTY NEWS

(Incorporated.)
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A STRANGE DOCTRINE.

Colonel Henry Watterson is at Miami. William Jennings Bryan is also at Miami. The Miami Metropolis interviewed the famous Kentucky editor in regard to his views on the Bryan proposition of making national prohibition the dominant issue for the campaign of 1920. Mr. Watterson is quoted as replying in the following words:

"It's a good thing for the politicians and a bad thing for the country when a great moral issue can be made a leading party issue. They are trying their hand now on prohibition. It is an appeal from God to anarchy; that is the worst part of it, for the fanatic knows no relenting. Neither does he make any discrimination. He is a monomaniac on the one subject that engages and enrages him. He would by act of assembly enact a constitutional amendment and suddenly change the human species from mortals to angels, thus he becomes an asset to the politicians.

"The cheap-John orator, the mere office seeking politician, finds it easier to stir the blood of the voters than to appeal to their reason. The dissolute candidate gets on the water wagon and preaches prohibition. The elected candidate, preaching prohibition, sells his vote to the beleaguered liquor interest. The prohibition propaganda makes a merit and a reason of the crimes it has itself occasioned. The dupes, reckoning not what they have done, dance about a conflagration, thinking it a bonfire.

"In ordinary affairs no great harm is this. But there lurks behind every movement of this kind a feeling which, when aroused, is unreflecting and unsparing. It is conceivable that this spirit, when it has blown up the breweries and burned down the distilleries, it might turn on the tobacco beds, under the plea that the weed is a poison, and having destroyed them, next propose the elimination of hardware and cutlery as the only means of stopping pistol toting with its wanton sacrifice of life, and finally address itself to tea and coffee, or anything that excites his ire."

Imagine for a moment one of our leading citizens saying, "It's a good thing for the politicians and a bad thing for the country when a great moral issue can be made a leading party issue." Imagine if you can, one of our greatest writers saying when there is an effort to rid the country of its greatest evil, the saloon, a thing that Mr. Watterson admits to be indefensible, now using the following strong language: "It is an appeal from God to anarchy." Who of you, fellow citizens, will permit yourselves to be deluded with sophistry? A thing is wrong, admitted wrong, a thing that is the curse of a nation, and yet when a people rise in their majesty to smite it, this "becomes an appeal from God to anarchy." It would be difficult to find more absurd remarks than these by the distinguished Kentuckian. It does not require an argument to answer them. A mere statement of his words are sufficient. If the distilleries and breweries destroy thousands of lives, without rendering any service to the country, then why should they not be destroyed? Not by an act of anarchy, as Mr. Watterson would have you believe, in order to prejudice your minds, but by the sovereign will of the people. If the question of profit could be eliminated the liquor business of this country would go speedily. The people have a right to settle all such questions by their votes, the only way it can be legally reached. The leading political party that adopts as a part of its platform national prohibition will either force the other dominant party to do the same, or its success is assured from the beginning. In either case national prohibition is obtained. Yes, in 1920 this will be a leading issue. Mr. Watterson and others to the contrary notwithstanding.

WILSON THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

President Wilson has again demonstrated the fact that he is a statesman, a diplomat and a man of altruistic principles and courage in a degree that even very few indeed dared to hope for. While Colonel Henry Watterson is again anathematizing the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns at Miami, a thing easy to do at this safe distance, and humorously contrasting his "mental processes" with those of Mr. Bryan, and while David Lloyd George, the new English premier, is heaping fuel upon the flames of war by even refusing the thought of a peace conference that has been asked for by a successful alliance of great nations who are already in possession of more than 185,000 square miles of their enemies' territory, thus destroying the remotest possibility of anything like a speedy conclusion of the war, Wilson even in the face of these discouraging conditions and without divulging his plans or seeking advice from others, throws himself into the breach and urges the warring powers to strive to reach a basis of understanding. Pres. Wilson knows if this opportunity is passed that the "die is cast," and that it will indeed be a war of "annihilation," as Colonel Watterson feels that should be. In this Mr. Watterson is mistaken, as he is on many other great questions.

Mr. Watterson's heated remarks arise from his intense hatred of Prussian militarism, and this is hated by all of us with as much vehemence as by him, but if an offer to stop fighting and to restore a region of country 185,000 square miles in area and worth many billions of dollars, does not indicate an already broken spirit, then we fail to understand when that stage is reached. President Wilson realizes this. He knows that for the overtures of Germany to be completely rejected will mean that the war is scarcely begun. The Germans will prefer to all die fighting than that their condition should become one of serfdom. Now is the strategic time for a conference, and this great nation is to be congratulated that it has as its president a man who does not necessarily have to confer with others, but when great emergencies arise he has a mind of his own and the courage of his convictions to put them into action. Indeed, Woodrow Wilson has again become "The Man of the Hour."

"WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY."

We often speak of what people will do for money. This has been so strongly emphasized that it has become hurtful and creates a tendency to become pessimistic in regard to such matters. It is indeed refreshing to read the following well expressed sentiment from the Philadelphia Ledger concerning things that it is impossible for money to buy:

"Some things can not be bought for money, as Mr. and Mrs. James Pankhurst, of Amboy, Ill., have discovered. They offered \$10,000 to be paid at their death to any satisfactory young woman who would live with them and take care of them to the end. They secured a girl from Chicago, who thought that she was willing to meet the conditions. She has discovered that \$10,000 is not enough to pay her for what was required; that is, celibacy and care of two old people.

"But there are hundreds, if not thousands, of young women who are doing for nothing in this state that for which this Chicago girl was to receive a considerable sum. There is doubtless no reader of this article who is not acquainted with one or more girls who are living at home and taking care of the old folks just because they need her care. Some of them are supporting a widowed mother or an invalid father with uncomplaining devotion, and there are many young men equally unselfish.

"No money could buy this service, and no money could pay for it. The

fact that it is rendered freely is one of the things which makes this wicked old world worth living in."

WHAT IS IT?

What is there about the paragraphs of the Lakeland Telegram that makes them so widely quoted? By actual count six of these paragraphs were quoted by one of our best papers in one issue. A number of the leading papers never fail to quote them. Does this, or does it not, mean that Editor Hetherington is one of Florida's brightest paragraphs? Or does it mean that he is just such a fine fellow that you want to honor him? Understand now, gentlemen, there is no sour grapes proposition about this, for he is one of our favorite writers, and we delight to see him honored, but in all sincerity what is there in his paragraphs that make them so popular? If you don't care to answer this question in your paper, put so sincerely and so earnestly, then answer by private mail, and your correspondence will be treated confidentially if you so wish it, but kindly be sure to answer this honest, earnest inquiry. For a long time many thought Uncle Joe Dixon wrote those paragraphs, but Uncle Joe has now been away so long that it is now known this is impossible. Mrs. Hetherington has also been credited with writing them, but many of them are entirely too masculine to be credited to her. Personally, we have come to the conclusion that M. F. writes them "hisself," and we want to know what's in 'em. Now, don't all answer this at once, for we are very busy, and prefer to get the replies not exceeding two each day until all have been heard from.

"SUPER-RECKLESSNESS."

A number of articles have been written and others copied in regard to careless drivers of automobiles. We make no apologies for these continued warnings, but shall feel ourselves amply repaid if more sensible conduct can be secured upon the part of drivers by these continued cautions "Super-Recklessness."

"No railroad company has done more to eliminate the grade crossing accident than the Long Island. It has spent many thousands of dollars to warn the drivers of automobiles against taking chances when a little caution means safety. Yet in spite of everything it seems almost impossible to save the reckless automobilist from his own folly.

"Four times this month automobiles have disregarded the danger signals at Franklin avenue, Garden City, and run through and broken off the crossing gates. Three managed to clear the tracks in safety. One of the occupants of the fourth automobile was killed, and the other two seriously injured.

"An automobilist who will do a thing of this kind has no right to drive a car. Not only should he be deprived of his license, but he should be punished to the limit of the law. The public is quick to denounce the railroad that takes no protective measures at grade crossings."

PROSPERITY.

To all external appearances Arcadia and vicinity are undergoing a period of prosperity. The Christmas business was never better with the merchants. Not one, so far as we know, and many have been spoken to, is dissatisfied with the patronage he is receiving. The postoffice and the express office have never done a bigger volume of business than has been done within the past ten days. The advertising business of the papers of the city was never so good as has been during the past two months, which has been a source of great gratification to the managements, and no doubt a source of profit to the merchants and business men. All the packing houses have been doing a good business, and report prices on citrus fruits very satisfactory. They think the trade will remain good the remainder of the season. The citizens of Arcadia have great reason for rejoicing. The building of the new streets will begin early in the coming year, and we predict for the year 1917 such prosperity as has not been seen in this section for many years. Let it come! We can stand a good deal of it.

WORK IN DATE BREEDING.

The prohibition of export of date offshoots from the French possessions in north Africa and the interruption of imports from other places have given new impetus to the date breeding work under way for the past ten years at the department date garden at Indio, California. Many new seedling date varieties are now being originated in America, some of which, according to the annual report of the chief of the bureau of plant industry, are apparently equal to the finest that have resulted from 3,000 years of date culture in the old world.

According to W. B. Barney, dairy commissioner of Iowa, his state gave the total value of dairy products for the year ending July 1, 1916, as \$105,330,565. The value of the dairy products of the state of Florida two years ago was \$5,000,000, though it is believed that there has been an increase on this of at least 50 per cent. during these two years. If the farmers are wise much attention will be given to this business. A few cows will make your family a good living. Try it.

The Florida Farmer and Homeseeker says:

"Leon county is fast taking the lead as the banner dairy section of the state. Some of the finest dairy cattle to be found anywhere are to be seen in Leon county, and during the past year several car loads of high grade and thoroughbred Jersey cows have been shipped to other parts of the state, bringing prices ranging from \$35 to upwards of \$100. Recently a big ice cream and dairy concern of Jacksonville contracted with Leon county dairymen for 500 gallons of milk daily, and further agreed to take all they could furnish over that amount. One farmer near Tallahassee sold \$280 worth of milk and butter in one month. He states that this year will give him an income of over \$3,000 from his dairy alone, not to mention the value of the by-products with particular reference to skim milk for his hogs and stable manure fertilizer. There is no more substantial business on the face of the earth than the dairy business."

Editor Thorndyke, of the Palm Beach Post, had a most interestingly written editorial on "Secretary Lansing Almost Spilled the Beans." The most characteristic statement made by Editor Thorndyke was "Secretary Lansing certainly fell down; in fact, it would seem that he actually sprang." At least the distinguished secretary should be congratulated for one thing, and that is his ability to "sprawl" without "actually spilling the beans." Instead of almost doing so. Be this as it may, Editor Thorndyke thinks "From this time henceforth, so long as he holds his present position, it is a safe conclusion to reach that Secretary Lansing will seek to explain no notes—save those which he personally shall write," and we think that Editor Thorndyke thinks rightly in his thinking.

The editor of this paper received a letter dated December 22 from Mr. J. Lee Allen, of Chattanooga, Tenn., who is a large owner of DeSoto county lands. Mr. Allen is a regular reader of the News, and commends it heartily for its stand in the main on public questions. Inasmuch as his company is one of the big tax payers of the county, the following paragraph in his letter is significant:

"I have made note of your attitude upon the road problem and other important issues. I agree with you in the main, especially upon the all-important road question. No country can thrive without good roads, and since the coming generation is the chief beneficiary there can be nothing unsound about the proposition to let it pay for at least a part of their construction and maintenance."

No more pleasing news has come from paperdom in a long time than that the Florida Farmer and Homeseeker will appear in the future twice a month instead of once as formerly. We sincerely hope that this excellent farm journal will receive such patronage that it will soon be compelled to publish once a week. It will be published in the future under the name of "Florida Farmer and Stockman." No farmer in Florida can afford to be without this journal. No notice has been given as to advance in subscription rate, which has been \$1.00 per year.

We are indeed glad to note that the Mulberry Herald, which suspended a short while ago because of non-support and the high cost of printing, is getting on its feet again. Citizens of Mulberry, don't let your paper die for lack of support. It is said that seven or eight papers have died in this city within the past ten years. This death rate is entirely too high, and we are pleased to learn that the Herald wouldn't "stay dead." The Herald is a good paper and is doing a great service for the city. Give it your hearty support.

The Sanford Herald expresses itself thusly in a matter that we could express ourself in even stronger language if so inclined, and yet be wholly justified:

"The Herald does not mind giving space for worthy enterprises, but it gets our goat for these same free-spacers to get their job printing done somewhere else after they have asked and received free space in the Herald. This is the kind of gratitude that sours the newspaper man on the world."

Christmas day came and went even more beautiful than the most sanguine could have hoped for. The crowd present at the Community Christmas Tree could not have been far short of 3,000 people, and it is quite probable that even more than this estimated number was there. Three thousand was the lowest estimate we heard made by any one. It was a great, grand, glorious success, and its promoters and all who participated in it are to be most heartily congratulated.

The day "behind" Christmas is just as pretty as the day before Christmas, or even Christmas day itself. The St. Petersburg Times gives away its paper on each day that the sun does not shine on the Sunshine City. It does not take any big risk at that. St. Petersburg, however, has no monopoly on the sunshine of southern Florida.

The automobiles lined up in such numbers to meet the special train that several of the teachers asked if every Arcadian owned an auto. As a matter of fact, it is doubtful if any community of the same population has more cars, and it is a known fact that no city can hold a light for Arcadia when it comes to furnishing them free to our guests.

At present the central powers have possession of approximately 180,000 square miles of the allies' territory, or a region that would make more than three states the size of Florida, while the allies hold Austro-German territory containing about 8,900 square miles, or a territory about the size of DeSoto, Lee and Manatee counties.

One man at the Community Christmas Tree last night, said, "If there were any way to count these people we could then have an up-to-date census of the city." Another one said, "I haven't seen so many people together since Catts spoke in Tampa."

After a while paper may be so scarce that shoe manufacturers can not afford to use it in soles.—Des Moines Register.

Do you suppose there will be anybody in this vicinity who will be willing to be absent when Bryan speaks here in February?

The best results in the control of grasshoppers can be obtained when all the farmers in a community cooperate.

ENDORSE DE SOTO COMMISSIONERS.

The county commissioners of DeSoto county are receiving responses from other boards of commissioners over the state endorsing the resolutions calling upon the next legislature to abolish the present depository law requiring the designation of numerous banks as depositories, and asking there be enacted in lieu thereof a law giving to the county commissioners the authority to contract with one bank, which is the highest and best bidder, to act as county depository. It is contended that the present law deprives the counties of practically all the interest on their deposits and requires very onerous administration duties.

The resolution asking the office of bond trustee be abolished and that the board of commissioners be authorized to contract with the bank that is the highest and best bidder for the handling of the bond funds, is also heartily endorsed, and from the letters received it appears that the two resolutions will have almost the solid support of the county commissioners of the state.—Avon Park Press.

A Big Man—

The biggest man in the republican party today is William H. Taft. We mean mentally as well as physically. Taft is one of a patriot than a politician.—Wauchula Advocate.

In 1904 the actual cash road and bridge expenditure in the United States averaged slightly less than \$28 per mile of rural roads. In 1915 the cash road and bridge expenditures had increased to an average of \$100 per mile of road.

The bureau of soils of the department of agriculture is co-operating with cement mills, blast furnaces and wool scourers, with the object of enabling them to recover potash as a by-product wherever this proves to be commercially feasible.

FORT BASSENGER.

Mr. L. W. Hurt completed the iron bridge and turned it over to the owner, Mr. Sid Pearce, and left for Bartow, going to Kissimmee by river. He took a large barge from there to Kissimmee, being drawn by a launch.

Mr. C. H. Quinn, of Wilmington, Ohio, was here last week to examine the first bridge across the Kissimmee river. He found everything in excellent condition, and commenting upon the splendid workmanship. Only one thing is lacking, and that is the name plates, which will be sent immediately from Wilmington.

Messrs. Henry and Isbn Hollingsworth were the guests of their sister, Mrs. Sid Pearce, for several days. They came here from Brownville, Mr. Isbn had just arrived from Denver, Col., to spend the Christmas with his parents in Brownville. While here, both gentlemen expressed their surprise and delight at the many improvements which have taken place. They admired our splendid new school house and the new iron bridge. On Sunday afternoon they visited our Sunday school, which was well attended, and Mr. Isbn Hollingsworth gave a splendid talk, in which he urged our Bible class to remember that "never put off until tomorrow the good we can do today." He also urged us to follow the Golden Rule in every day life, together with the great commandment, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Our people enjoyed a Christmas tree given, Thursday afternoon, December 21st in our school house.

Santa Claus came around early, and left a nice baby boy at the home of John Carter. The mother and baby are doing nicely.

Dan Cupid has been a busy fellow this season, and we are expecting several weddings next week, on both sides of the river.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Collins left last week for Jacksonville, where they will spend Christmas with her parents.

Mrs. Marvin Collins, who has been quite sick, is now up and about, and spent Christmas in Zolli with her brothers and husband.

Mrs. Sid Pearce left here Friday for a two weeks' stay in Brownville with her parents.

Mr. J. L. Groom left Friday to spend Christmas with his brothers and sisters in Wauchula.

Mr. Mose Lanier and family expect to go to Berea soon to visit Mr. Lanier's parents.

We had a little frost the other day but it did no damage. After the cold spell we had a fine rain.

Many tourists, more than usual, are crossing the Kissimmee here, and a gasoline tank will be installed near the bridge to accommodate travelers who are making this place very lively.

CITRUS CANKER.

No final statement as to the outcome of the campaign against citrus canker can be expected within a period of at least two years. The campaign, however, is progressing very satisfactorily in the commercially important orange and grape fruit regions of Florida. Even in the few places where citrus canker outbreaks have occurred in commercial districts and in old trees, the disease can be eradicated promptly and effectively. Although thorough inspection of citrus plantings will be necessary, at least during the coming year, it is believed that Florida is now so nearly free of the disease as to render its eradication from the state practically certain. In Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi the work has been more difficult from the beginning because of the more scattered plantings and the relatively smaller interests involved. Furthermore, in all these states the unusually severe tropical storms of the present year have caused unexpectedly wide damage among the trees.

The bureau of soils of the department of agriculture last year mapped in detail the various soils of 24,749-440 acres in 75 areas in 32 states.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

WANTED—To buy a good milch cow. Write E. L. Stallings, Torrey, Fla. D-12-9 6tp-w 12-14 5tp.

LOST—Between Lakeland and Arcadia, one leather suit case, bearing initials T. J. H., Denmark, S. C. Finder return to Arcadia House, Reward. D1tp-w 12-23 1tp

We are owners of large body of land northeast of Arcadia and east of Gardner, partly adjoining Sweetwater and new townsite of Lindsay. For sale at very reasonable prices. Write

DORNES & BUSCH,

1338 Main St., Dubuque, Iowa.